

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL ZAGREB

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5050

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, YO

SUBJECT: CROATIAN CANDIDATES CHOSEN FOR TOP PARTY POSITIONS

REF: ZAGREB 107

1. ZAGREB DAILY "VJESNIK" OF MARCH 1 REPORTS THAT CANDIDATES FROM CROATIA FOR TOP FEDERAL AND CROATIAN PARTY POSITIONS WERE "NOMINATED" AT LAST WEEK'S SESSION OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE LEAGUE OF COMMUNISTS OF CROATIA (LCC). AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL, VLADIMIR BAKARIC WILL RETAIN HIS POSITION IN THE PRESIDUM OF THE LEAGUE OF COMMUNISTS OF YUGOSLAVIA (LCY) AND DUSAN DRAGOSAVAC, CURRENTLY LCC EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, WILL MOVE TO THE LCY PRESIDUM. IN THE CROATIAN PARTY, MILKA PLANINC WILL RETAIN HER POST AS LCC PRESIDENT (AND WITH IT HER LCY PRESIDUM SEAT), AND MILUTIN BALTIC, CURRENTLY PRESIDENT OF THE CROATIAN TRADE UNION COUNCIL, WILL BECOME LCC SECRETARY.

2. VJESNIK ARTICLE FOLLOWS ALMOST UNNOTICED ANNOUNCEMENT OF CANDIDATE SELECTIONS IN REPORT ON LCC CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING WHICH APPEARED IN CURRENT EDITION OF PARTY PUBLICATION "KOMUNIST." KOMUNIST ALSO REPORTS THAT LCC CENTRAL COMMITTEE APPROVED DECISION TO REVISE LCC STRUCTURE TO CONFORM WITH NEW LCY STRUCTURE.

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CURRENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WILL BE ELIMINATED AS A SEPARATE BODY AND PRESIDUM WILL BE THE ONLY EXECUTIVE ARM OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE. HOWEVER, THE PRESIDUM WILL ELECT "SEVERAL" SECRETARIES FROM CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP AND A SECRETARY OF THE PRESIDUM WILL COORDINATE THEIR WORK.

3. COMMENT: THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE CANDIDACIES FOR PARTY

POSITIONS OF BAKARIC, PLANINC, DRAGOSAVAC, AND BALTIC, ADDED TO THE EARLIER ANNOUNCEMENT (REFTEL) OF THE CANDIDACIES OF BLAZEVIC, BILIC, AND FLEKOVIC FOR THE TOP GOVERNMENTAL POSTS PROVIDES A MORE COMPLETE PICTURE OF THE FUTURE CROATIAN LEADERSHIP. ON FIRST IMPRESSION, THERE IS A STRONG ELEMENT OF CONTINUITY. ALL SEVEN OF THESE CROATIANS HAVE PLAYED IMPORTANT ROLES SINCE THE POST-1971 PURGES, AND NONE, NOT EVEN FLEKOVIC, CAN BE CONSIDERED TRULY A NEW FACE. BAKARIC, PLANINC, AND BLAZEVIC, PERHAPS THE THREE MOST IMPORTANT CROATIAN LEADERS, HAVE ALL RETAINED THEIR POSITIONS, AND DRAGOSAVAC AND BILIC ARE SHUTTling BETWEEN FEDERAL AND REPUBLIC POSTS. BALTIC, FOLLOWING DRAGOSAVAC, INTO THE POSITION OF LCC SECRETARY, ALSO CONTINUES THE PRACTICE OF ALLOTting THIS JOB TO A SERB FROM CROATIA. WITHIN THIS CONTEXT OF CONTINUITY, THERE WILL, HOWEVER, BE SOME DIFFERENCES, AT LEAST OF PERSONALITY. BILIC IS YOUNGER AND MORE AMBITIOUS THAN HIS PREDECESSOR PERISIN; FLEKOVIC IS CONSIDERED TO BE MORE IDEOLOGICALLY MINDED THAN HIS PREDECESSOR, THE PRAGMATIC ECONOMIST SIROTKOVIC; AND BALTIC ALSO HAS THE REPUTATION OF BEING DOCTRINAIRE. NEVERTHELESS, IT IS NOT EXPECTED THAT THIS "NEW" LEADERSHIP LINEUP WILL LEAD TO MAJOR POLICY CHANGES.

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## Message Attributes

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